

# 91M Deploys to Support Honduras Mission

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## **First Nutrition Care Specialist (91M) Provides Support to the San Antonio Military Pediatric Center (SAMPC) Residency Training Program Mission to Honduras**

SGT John Broesamle recently deployed as the first Nutrition Care Specialist (91M) to support the San Antonio Military Pediatric Center Residency Training Program mission to Honduras. SGT Broesamle served as an invaluable team member during the 7-15 November 2003 mission. This mission is a collaborative effort between the San Antonio Military Pediatric Center (SAMPC), the Honduran Ministry of Health, Joint Task Force Bravo, Honduras, and the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

During the mission, team members conducted nutrition surveys, tested for anemia, collected samples of sugar, salt, and flour for fortification analysis, and collected blood/serum samples for analysis of iron and vitamin A status. Data was collected using true random sampling and convenience sampling methodologies. In addition, health care was provided at the household level as well as during a clinic day.

During the mission, SGT Broesamle performed a myriad of tasks. These tasks included:

- Obtaining anthropometric measurements:

  - Mid-upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements

  - Height/Length/Weight measurements

- Testing for anemia (hemoglobin)

- Obtaining blood samples for Zinc Protoporphyrin (ZPP)

- Electronically recording nutrition survey information

- Obtaining location and altitude using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology

- Processing serum samples using a centrifuge

- Labeling and storing specimens

- Obtaining sugar, salt, and flour samples for fortification analysis

- HUMVEE driver

Nutrition Care Specialists can serve very effectively as Registered Dietitian extenders collecting research data in support of missions to remote areas. SGT John Broesamle currently serves as NCOIC of Cash Control in the Nutrition Care Directorate at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington D.C.

